

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
March 20, 2013**

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Karl Wilson, LaVerkin Mayor
Matt Ence, Santa Clara
Angela Rohr, Leeds Mayor
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Dave Glenn, Ivins City
Larry Bulloch, St. George City
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
William Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch
Gary Webster, Congressman Chris Stewart
Nathan Lee, UDOT
Ron Whitehead, Washington County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

MINUTES

Approval of DTEC Minutes of February 20, 2013

Motion: Motion by Mayor Hart to Approve the DTEC Minutes of March 20, 2013. Motion seconded by Councilman Ence and carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

a. 2013 TIP Amendment

Myron Lee said that St. George City has determined that it would like to build the 3000 East project with City funds and then move all of the federal money to the Indian Hills Drive project. Instead of two federally funded projects, it will have only one. St. George City requested DTAC and now requests that DTEC amend its TIP to move the federal money from 3000 East to Indian Hills Drive, with the caveat that the City build the 3000 East project with City funds.

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Hughes to adopt the 2013 TIP Amendment as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Ence and carried by unanimous vote.

b. Approve Designee for CHSTP Committee

Curt Hutchings said that Five County has a committee that deals with coordinated transportation for transit issues and is comprised of Five County and the Dixie MPO. In the past, a representative from local government sat on that committee (Suzanne Allen, Roger Bundy). Jeff Turek now has that role, and it would be advisable to have a liaison between that committee and this group, so Mr. Hutchings suggested that Mr. Turek be so appointed.

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Ence to Appoint Jeff Turek to the CHSTP Committee. Motion seconded by Mayor Hart and carried by unanimous vote.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **COG Legislation Report (HB-11)**

Chairman Eardley reported that the Council of Governments (COG) last met on February 5, 2013. At that time, HB-11 had been through the House and forwarded to the Senate for action. Now, the Senate has approved the bill, which allows for COG funds to be spent outside MPO boundaries for transportation planning purposes, and also for the COG funds to be used as a revolving loan or a grant, at the discretion of the COG.

A COG meeting will be held on April 16, 2013, at which time HB-11 will be presented for official adoption.

b. **Washington Parkway Letter of Support**

Councilman Ence signed the letter of support, which, along with the County letter of support, will be hand-delivered to the BLM. We are waiting on three maps to accompany the letters. Mr. Whitehead will email the letters and maps to all DTEC members when they are received.

c. **Local Cost Share for 2014**

Myron Lee said a process was set last fall to determine appropriate cost shares for the members of the MPO. The preliminary numbers were taken to the DTAC so that the

public works directors could assemble their budgets for the coming year. The cost shares are as follows: St. George City, \$16,500; Ivins, Santa Clara, Washington, and Hurricane, \$5,500; LaVerkin, Toquerville, and Leeds, \$1,833.00. These are the amounts approved by this committee and the DTAC.

d. Florida State DOT Recognition

The Florida State Department of Transportation studied 186 long-range plans from small- and medium-sized MPOs and listed the Dixie MPO as one of six recipients for citizen-friendly best practices. It is cited as being less than 50 pages long and refers to other outside studies showing a unified effort in the planning process. Cache County was also one of the six recipients.

e. Household Travel Survey Presentation

Myron reminded the committee that his intention is to discuss a part of the Household Travel Survey at each meeting. This survey was used to recalibrate the travel demand models and is also useful for other planning and informing policy. Data collected include all trips by all household members, why and how and where they went. Forty percent of households drive less than 35 miles on a given day, while fifty percent of all trips are 3 miles or less.

In terms of housing choices, respondents seemed to want more mixed use developments and were averse to purely residential areas. They also expressed a preference for the small town/rural atmosphere. People prefer to live closer to where they work, and lower density is more attractive than higher density. Lower home prices are attractive, but there is a threshold – if the price of housing nearer to their employment is high, they will buy a less expensive home farther away, and commute. Private parking, multi-use streets, and shorter distances to transit are preferred overall.

Nearly sixty percent of bicyclists traveled less than 2 miles per trip, over half of which were to a destination other than work. Chairman Eardley commented that these preferences were reflective of attitudes expressed during the Vision Dixie process.

In past COG meetings, discussions have been held regarding the wisdom of establishing bike lanes in corridor preservation efforts.

Discussed at JPAC recently was that air quality (particularly along the Wasatch Front, where inversions are common in winter months) that are negatively impacted by vehicle emissions are worse during the first five to ten minutes of a trip (cold starts). This data leads to an emphasis on expanding public transportation in the future.

f. Mall Drive Bridge/Underpass

Larry Bulloch and Councilman Hughes agreed that this project is the top priority for the City of St. George. There are financial constraints, but the city is in the process of redesigning 3000 East around the hill into the Washington Fields. A new school is also being built at 3000 East. The City is attempting to engage property owners in that area to possibly assist in the funding of the bridge, which is estimated at between ten and twenty million dollars. Mr. Lee said that traffic count analyses were done, looking at what percentage of the traffic would change if Mall Drive Bridge over the Virgin River and a Mall Drive underpass were built under I-15. The underpass would connect Red Hills Parkway and Red Cliffs Drive at Mall Drive. There are different data, depending on whether the bridge is built alone, or with the underpass. Traffic reduction was significant, both ways. Mayor Rohr mentioned that the project may negatively impact the traffic at St. George Blvd. and 1000 East, but Mr. Lee said that the study shows a 25% reduction in traffic on 1000 East at St. George Blvd.

Mr. Bulloch said that the City has hired Horrocks Engineering to do a corridor study of River Road with a view towards optimizing its efficiency. As part of that study, they will extend it over to the mall area to examine its effect on the Washington interchange.

Nathan Lee said the MPO programmed \$40,000 for the River Road study. UDOT's suggestion is to add \$20,000 or \$30,000 to that amount from UDOT, St. George City, Washington City, and the MPO to study the Mall Drive Bridge and I-15 Underpass sections and their impacts on Exits 8 and 10 as a joint venture. Myron Lee said that the MPO contributed the \$40,000 to St. George's study on River Road and gave another \$10,000 to the study on Telegraph/Green Springs area. They wanted to include the Mall Drive area, as well.

Mayor Hart asked whether any preliminary environmental work has been done relative to the bridge, and Mr. Bulloch said that the environmental clearances are being finished. A mitigation package has been completed for Fish and Wildlife, but additional information may be requested by USF&W.

5. UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Chairman Eardley said that this is Commissioner Lewis's last meeting with DTEC as UDOT Commissioner. He is finishing up his second term of six years with UDOT. He said that he has enjoyed working with this group and seeing the cooperative spirit that drives it. The entire state has benefited from the experience and wisdom of Commissioner Lewis.

His position will be assumed by Naghi Zeenati, who was appointed by the Governor.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Hart asked for a report on the Washington Parkway, and Myron Lee said the study that was done indicated several mitigations that could be implemented to help the tortoise habitat. The Parkway is intended to run east-west from Hurricane to Ivins. Ron Whitehead added that a complete Title V application has been prepared and is ready to present to the BLM, along with letters of support and maps referred to earlier in the meeting. The proposed roadway contains 2.06 miles of private land that is not under BLM control. The BLM has been advised that the proposed Parkway route is the shortest distance, offering the least disturbance to the tortoises. The entire application will be provided to all members via email as soon as it is completed.

Nathan Lee reminded everyone that the Transportation Commission will meet Friday March 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the St. George City Offices.

- **NEXT MEETING**

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting April 17, 2013

Next Scheduled EW CRPO RTEC Meeting 1 p.m. April 25, 2013 (LaVerkin)

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall